



New Climate Change Strategy



by Bradfield for Visit Canberra

What we have heard

Emissions Reductions:

50% below 1990 levels by 2025 is within reach.



However, it is **critical for the ACT Government to commit to further action** to meet the net zero and interim targets.

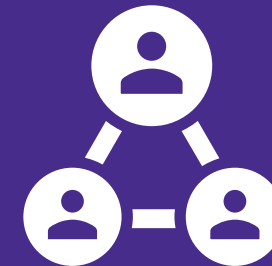
Adaptation:

The community will continue to face increasingly adverse impacts of climate change.

only **35%**
of Canberrans think
they could easily
adapt to climate
change impacts

Community:

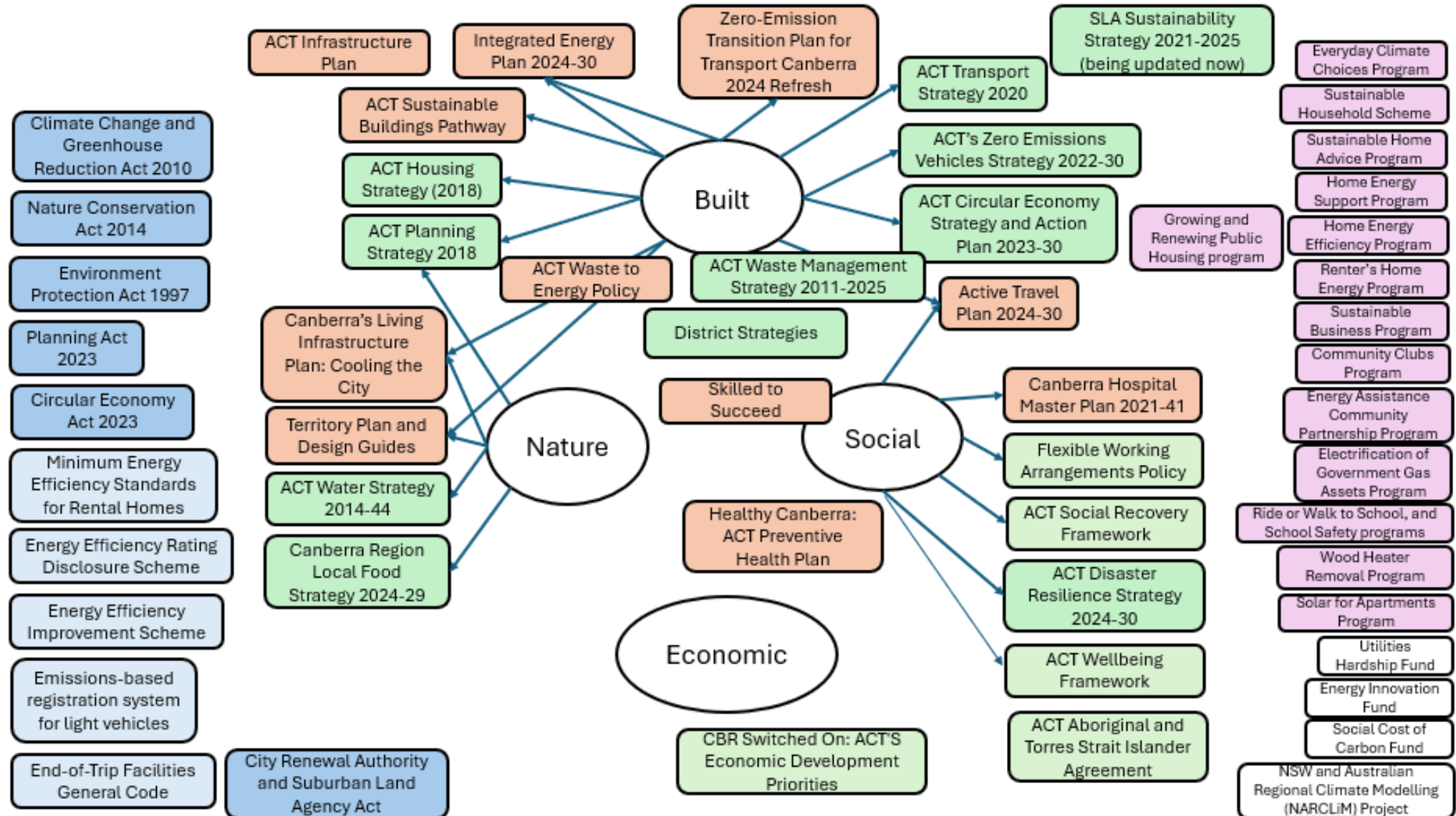
All Canberrans have a role in mitigating and adapting to climate change.



Our role as Government is to **facilitate coordination and provide focussed support.**

What have we achieved, existing actions

Alignment, harmonisation and building upon Australian Government work. For example Net Zero Sectoral Plans, National CER roadmap, Climate Risk and Opportunity Management Plan, upcoming National Adaptation Plan



Document 1: CCS 2026-2035 Overarching Framework

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- (a) Monitoring and evaluating progress
- (b) Reporting on progress
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Document 2: Shorter Term Action Plan

Actions linked to gaps and opportunities, themes or overarching, cross directorate responsibilities (particularly where actions may have no home in specific strategies)

Allows Regular updates

Not a specific pathway or an exhaustive list

Document 1: CCS 2.0

Overarching Framework

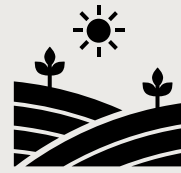
Section 1: About this strategy

This section explains why we need a strategy and what the strategy will achieve.

Narrative

- Where are we at with climate change
- What have we achieved, existing actions
- Need for continued action
- What we heard from the community

Key Objectives for CCS 2.0



There is a collective understanding of the desired outcomes are for 2035 and beyond with respect to climate change.



There is a collective understanding of what the Territory needs to focus on between 2026 – 2035 to reach our desired outcomes.



Climate actions are coordinated across government and community and is efficient and effective.



It is clear how the Territory is progressing towards our overarching climate change outcomes.

Section 2 - What are ACT govt.'s principles to prioritise government support?

These principles are for any new actions in CC across all govt. (not just CCS).

1 Signpost the future with a clear and implementable pathway

This section explains ACT govt.'s priorities to support progress on climate action.

This will help explain what ACT govt.'s role is on the journey e.g. support vulnerable, signpost, coordination.

4 Engage in cohesive and holistic decision making

2 Enable Canberrans to act through engagement, education and capacity development

5 Implement meaningful monitoring and evaluation with ongoing learning and improvement

3 Prioritise participation, equity, and inclusion

6 Fiscal, social and sustainable responsible transition with least cost and highest outcome

Section 2 Vision and Themes

Vision

Adaptation

Canberrans prepared for a 2-4 degree warmer world.
2 degrees by 2030-2040; 4 degrees by 2090-2100



Disaster resilience and community recovery

We are empowered to prepare for and respond to disasters.



Communities and Businesses

Businesses and communities are equipped, socially connected, healthy, safe and secure in the face of



Natural environment and resources

Ecosystems, landscapes and water catchments are supported to adapt to climate change

Both



Built environment

All builds and retrofits are constructed for the future climate, with sustainability, embodied emissions and circular economy front of mind.



Government

Climate risk management, adaptation planning and emissions valuation are BAU in decision making.

Emissions reduction

Net Zero by 2045

**Reduce emissions by: 50 to 60% by 2025;
65 to 75% by 2030; 90 to 95% by 2040**



Transport

Canberrans are shifting towards more active, efficient and public transport options. Transport emissions are on track to reach net-zero by 2045



Energy

Priority households all electric energy efficient and thermally comfortable,, powered by 100% renewable electricity.



Other emissions

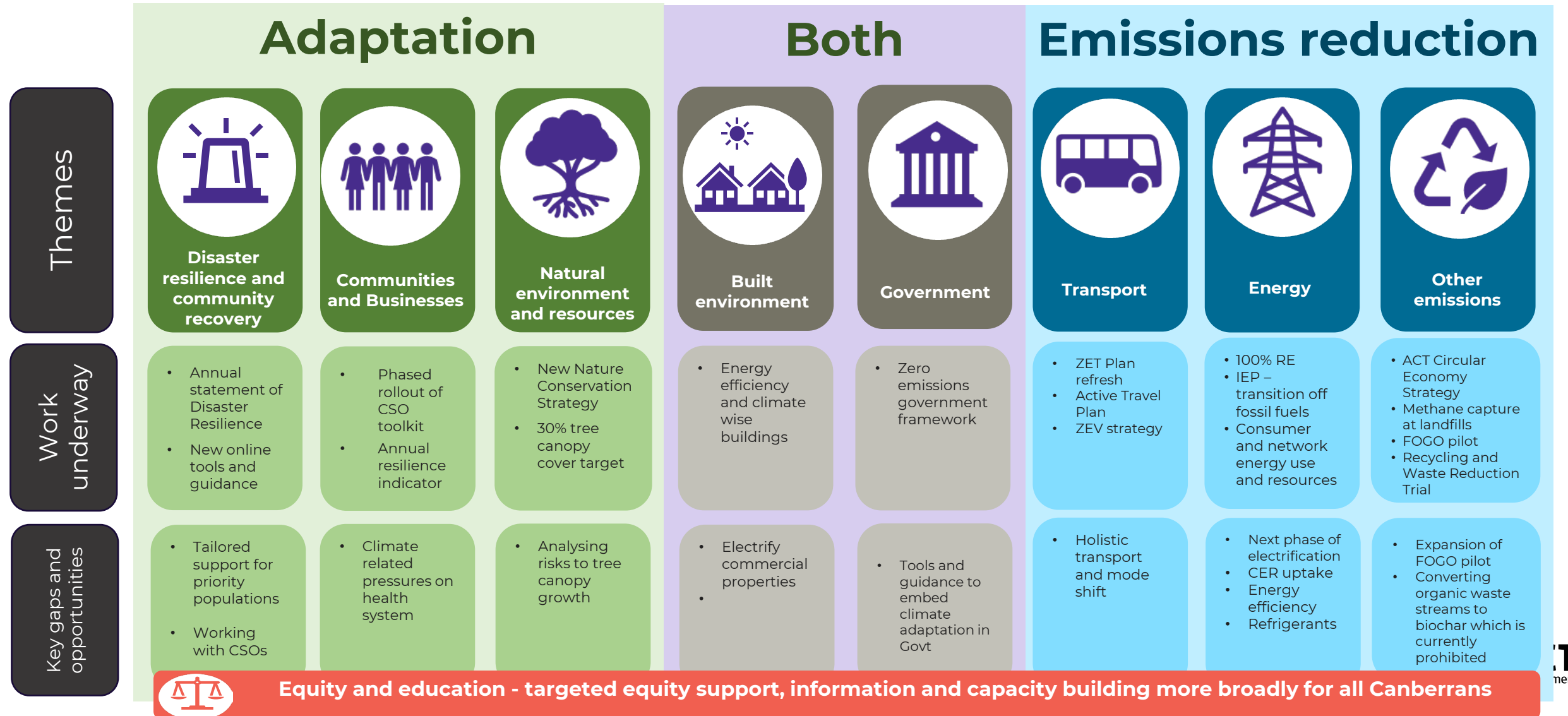
We are reducing the Territory's waste emissions and scope 3 emissions.

Some outcomes and direction are already identified in other strategies.

Outcomes for 2035

Themes

Section 2: Identify work underway + gaps/opportunities that work towards our outcomes





Transport

Key message = holistic transport management is a gap in current work and we can address it via a structural shift in transport investment and by prioritising the movement and connection of people.

Existing outcomes

There are around 60 existing outcomes, targets and visions around

- EV uptake,
- infrastructure,
- transport choices and places
- journey connections,
- skills,
- active travel,
- fleets and
- MHDVs.

*From the ACT Transport Strategy, ZE transition plan for Transport Canberra, Active Travel Plan, ZEV Strategy, ACT Planning Strategy, CBR Switched on and MOUs

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- Canberrans are shifting towards more active, efficient and public transport options, shown through declining trajectory of per capita vehicle kms travelled.
- Canberra is undertaking a structural shift in transport investment (eg increased spend on public / active transport and comparatively less on roads).
- Transport emissions are on track to reach net-zero by 2045 and net-zero by 2040 for the government fleet.

Work underway

- ZE Vehicles.
 - Eg Increasing EV uptake, chargers installed, fleets
- ZE Buses and other heavy vehicles
- Active travel initiatives
- Light rail extension + public transport network
- Vehicle to grid trials + Consumer Energy Resources work

Key gaps and opportunities

- Improve ways to better measure current modal shares and vehicle kilometres travelled and understanding transport budget allocation and expenditure.
- Overcoming barriers, incentives and disincentives to mode shift, e.g. through trials and measures to discourage car use.
- Identify and optimise links between transport and energy systems to ensure efficient, secure, affordable and effective energy use . E.G managed charging and V2X.
- Address barriers to uptake in medium + heavy duty EVs and lower income groups.



Energy

Key message = there is a lot of work underway, the IEP provides a clear approach to phase out fossil fuel energy and ensure an affordable and reliable energy supply. We need to build on this momentum.

Existing outcomes

There are 11 existing outcomes and 6 targets across

- households,
- complex buildings,
- Business, eco dev + innovation
- transport,
- skills,
- network,
- renewable electricity
- gas use and
- technology

from the IEP, CCGHGR Act and other sources

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- 100% RE maintained with ongoing secure, reliable and affordable energy, supported by CER and EE & clear visibility of gas network decommissioning.
- Priority households are all electric, efficient and thermally comfortable
- Clear pathway and implementation underway for electrification of complex buildings and apartments.
- Decline in gas use and energy emissions on track to net-zero by 2045 and net-zero by 2040 for government energy emissions.

Work underway

- Transition off fossil fuels, eg regs, SHEPI, HESP, EOGGA, SAP
- Renewable electricity supply including CER, batteries
- Energy efficiency and climate wise buildings, eg mandatory disclosure, min standards rental properties, EEIS
- Energy Innovation Fund

Key gaps and opportunities

- Focus on those that need the most support.
- Supporting CER uptake through education and support for those that need it most.
- Supporting climate wise buildings and ongoing energy efficiency, including demos and workforce training.
- Continued investigation where pathways are uncertain, including LPG, wood heaters and where electrification is infeasible
- Ensuring the network is resilient and supports the transition, through network upgrades and grid modernisation
- Refrigerant emissions



Other emissions

Key message = Organic waste in landfill will generate methane for many decades, posing a significant challenge in meeting the net zero emissions target. Diverting and processing organics is essential.

Existing outcomes

There are 15 existing outcomes, 3 targets and 89 actions related to waste or circular economy from

- ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2030
- ACT Waste to Energy Policy
- Canberra Region Local Food Strategy
- ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2025
- ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- Circular economy – The Territory is on track to becoming a circular city, through increasing rates of resource recovery and declining quantities of waste to landfill.
- Scope 3 emissions – The declining trajectory in Territory scope 3 emissions.

Work underway

- The Circular Economy Strategy will be updated in 2027 to include a waste management action plan.
- Sustainable Business Program supports ACT businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling.
- The food and garden organics (FOGO) pilot is ongoing, with a new FOGO facility in works.
- Recycling and Waste Reduction Trial in eight apartment buildings

Key gaps and opportunities

- Continued focus on opportunities for improved waste management, including a new FOGO processing facility.
- Review ACT's Waste to Energy Policy which currently limits biochar production. Converting organic waste streams to biochar could become an emissions sink.
- Increased community education to increase resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill.
- Monitor Territory scope 3 emissions to identify key hotspots and areas for action.
- Consider strategies focusing on changing consumption behaviour.



Government

Key message = Giving government the appropriate tools and increasing capability to put adaptation, resilience and emissions reduction into action

Existing outcomes

Zero emission government by 2040 target. There are 21 outcomes, actions or targets from the

- Climate Change Strategy
- Circular Economy Strategy
- Integrated Energy Plan.

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- Government operations, services and assets are resilient to on-going and increasing impacts of CC.
- Climate risk management, adaptation planning and emissions valuation are BAU in decision making.
- Government scope 3 emissions are on a declining trajectory.
- Government on track to reach net zero operations by 2040.

Work underway

- Zero emissions government, eg ZEG framework, EOGGA, ZEG fund, LCC policy, Circular Economy Strategy.
- Developing tools and guidance material to strengthen climate adaptation considerations in government processes.
- Skills and workforce.

Key gaps and opportunities

- Consider climate change impacts in decision making frameworks.
- Setting targets beyond net zero, e.g. scope 3 and interim govt scope 1 targets.
- Leveraging govt. supply chains to reduce Territory emissions.
- Developing a framework for residual emissions. e.g. offsets policy.
- Improving cross-govt. climate risk and adaptation management through governance, collaboration, capability uplift and climate financial risk disclosure reporting.
- Increase understanding of skill gaps, particularly in adaptation and circular economy.
- Work related to insurance.



Built Environment

Key message = ensuring ACT has a liveable and resilient built environment and supports the transition to net zero by 2045

Existing outcomes

There are over 30 existing outcomes, actions or targets across

- Energy and thermal performance
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable Buildings
- Electrification
- renewable energy
- Climate wise design
- Urban canopy cover
- Surface permeability
- Circular economy
- Embodied +scope 3 emissions

from ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25, Living Infrastructure Plan, IEP, Sustainable Buildings Pathway, City Plan, 2018 Planning Strategy, SLA Sustainability Strategy

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- New builds, retrofits and rebuilds are constructed for the future climate, with sustainability, embodied emissions and circular economy front of mind.
- Priority homes are electric, efficient and thermally comfortable
- Climate Responsive Design is used to establish a resilient City Centre of the future. Built form, parks and open spaces, the public realm and streets are designed to work with and respond to Canberra's local climate.

Work underway

- Minimum standards introduced for rental properties.
- Fostering resilient and climate-wise urban planning principles
- Living Infrastructure targets to cool our city
- Energy Efficiency and Climate Wise Buildings
- Sustainable Apartments Pilot.
- Work to reduce embodied emissions by promoting low carbon concrete options in government projects

Key gaps and opportunities

- Ensuring WhoG consistency to inform planning strategies and standards such as the Municipal Infrastructure Standards and the Territory Plan.
- Capturing the public benefits of resilient infrastructure in government decision making, such as through the existing Capital Framework.
- Considering what more can be done to reduce urban heat island effect
- Managing the embodied emissions associated with the construction sector.
- Need to consider incentives and pathways for the commercial property sector.
- Exploring whether the minimum standards approach can be expanded to more dwellings



Communities and Businesses

Key message = While climate change will impact how people live and work, we can mitigate climate impacts and build resilience through education, targeted investments in essential services and collaboration with community and businesses to find new ways of working together to respond to climate change

Existing outcomes

There are around 30 existing outcomes, targets and visions across

- Community resilience
- Health
- Education
- Support for households
- Working with community sector organisations

From the CCS 1.0, Annual Report indicators and other sources

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- Community able to access critical services and support networks during extreme climate events
- Community equipped to reduce emissions in the household and workplace
- ACT health system is prepared to improve, protect and promote health in the face of climate change
- Businesses have the tools to mitigate, adapt and safeguard their workforces from climate risks

Work underway

- Development of annual resilience indicator to complement 5-yearly Longitudinal Survey
- Phased rollout of Community Sector Org 'adaptation toolkit'
- Education Directorate Climate Adaptation Plan for schools
- Co-benefits methodology to help identify and measure impact of climate policies on health and wellbeing outcomes

Key gaps and opportunities

- Investigate policy initiatives that could improve Longitudinal Survey indicators for community resilience
- Better understanding emerging pressures on the health system by developing an ACT climate adaptation plan for health
- Consider climate adaptation guidance and resources for ACT businesses
- Further investigation into impacts of climate change on ACT Indigenous community
- Consider options to ensure community access to heat refuges



Disaster resilience and community recovery

Key message = While climate change will increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather in the ACT (particularly bushfires, heatwaves and flash flooding) we can empower the community to prepare for, cope with, and bounce back from extreme weather events.

Existing outcomes

There are over 20 different outcomes covering

- Emergency management response
- Embedding disaster resilience
- Community recovery

From the Emergency Management Plan, Disaster Resilience Strategy and other sources

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- Inclusive and equitable approach to disaster resilience planning ensures all sections of community cohorts can cope with and recover from disaster events
- Emergency services have adequate capacity to respond to increasing frequency of climate disaster events
- Disaster resilience embedded in urban planning, utilities and building design to limit disruption to essential services (e.g. water, electricity)

Work underway

- Many initiatives covered in other themes will also support disaster resilience (e.g. climate resilient infrastructure, heat refuges)
- Preparing an Annual Statement of Disaster Resilience to better track progress across different areas of Govt
- Developing more inclusive and 'person-centred' disaster resilience online tools and guidance

Key gaps and opportunities

- Developing targeted support for priority populations (e.g. people with a disability, with fewer financial resources or communicating in non-English languages). This is through close collaboration with community sector, mapping key relationships and resourcing needs for community orgs to provide this support.
- Assessing vulnerability of disaster response and social recovery in the event of disruption to essential services (e.g. electricity black-outs, telecommunication outages, supply chain disruptions)



Natural environment and resources

Key message = Climate change is already impacting natural ecosystems and agricultural lands in the ACT. While our future climate and environment will be different, our conservation and land management will be underpinned by values such as maintaining environmentally diverse habitats, agricultural productivity and ensuring that lands contribute to carbon abatement.

Existing outcomes

There are over 15 existing outcomes, targets and visions across:

- Nature conservation
- Water supply and catchments
- Urban forest and landscapes
- Agriculture
- Biosecurity

From CCS 1.0, Water Strategy, Nature Conservation Strategy and other sources

Indicative outcomes in 2035

- Conservation framework in place that supports a 'nature positive' vision, including targets, timeframes and measurable baselines
- The ACT continues on trajectory to 30% tree canopy coverage by 2045
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) emissions remain a material net emissions sink in the ACT

Work underway

- Establishment of the Office of the Landscape Architect and new Landscape Plan
- Development of new Nature Conservation Strategy and refreshed Water Strategy underway
- Monitoring of progress towards 30% tree canopy cover target
- Investigation of carbon abatement opportunities in agricultural lands

Key gaps and opportunities

- Integrate a nature positive vision into our nature management plans, policies and practices, as aligned with the new Nature Conservation Strategy.
- Explore ways to reduce our impact on the natural environment, e.g. reducing potable water demand through household rainwater storage.
- Continue integrating living infrastructure and green spaces, e.g. identifying potential challenges to achieving the 2045 tree canopy cover target.
- Pilot and scale emissions reduction opportunities through farm forestry, environmental plantings and soil carbon.

Section 3: How will we measure progress

We are looking to establish a clear MERI framework

Each theme should have clear and simple indicators on progress against outcomes which would translate to reporting requirements of the CCS.

Metrics to report on overall progress against overarching outcomes e.g. projected residual emissions in 2045.

Where available, existing targets will be used.

Metrics to report on progress against each topic e.g. electrification -> X% buildings off gas by 2035

Document 2: CCS 2.0 Action Plan

Published as required

This document is proposed to be only for new cross-government actions and is published following confirmed budget funding.

This document includes the committed actions and success metrics for each action.

Examples of actions			
Theme	Gap	Examples of Actions	Implementation method
Transport	Overcoming barriers to mode shift	Pilot projects to tackle barriers to mode shift away from private vehicles.	Potential new action for CCS action plan. Cross-cutting to address holistic transport.
Transport	Demand management	Consider measures to support mode shift. Signpost and disincentivise the transition away from ICE vehicles. E.g. ratchet emissions-based rego + stamp duty, review parking provisions and levies, accept congestion during peak hour – build roads for off-peak capacities, advocate for national RUCs to apply more aggressively to ICE vehicles, slower for ZEVs.	Potential new action for CCS action plan. Coordination required across planning, transport, Access Canberra, TSY and CCEW.
Communities and businesses	Setting up foundational work	Evaluating the current effectiveness of ACT heat refuge policy and investigating options for improvement.	TBD in CCS action plan.
Communities and businesses	Setting up foundational work	Investigation into climate change pressures and community needs for the ACT’s Indigenous community	TBD in CCS action plan.
Natural environment	Reducing potable water demand	Investigation into options for more efficient water demand e.g. future feasibility of recycled water; incorporation of rainwater tanks into design guides or new residential development	TBD in CCS action plan.
Natural environment	Urban canopy cover	Modelling and analysis of future opportunities and challenges for the ACT’s trajectory towards 30% tree canopy cover and surface permeability by 2045	TBD in CCS action plan.

Consultation

Consultation options

Option 1

- Longer consultation period across Q4 2025 – Q1 2026.
- Focus on targeted stakeholder consultation in Q4 2025 with more community weighted activity in February.

Option 2

- Two step consultation process – targeted consultation Q4 2025, Your Say public consultation Q1 2026

Considerations

- Different options provide different ability for stakeholders and the public to influence types of actions government will consider and include in Budget business cases. May be able to adjust the scope of the action plan, eg foundational action plan in first year, more comprehensive action plan in future year

Public vs targeted consultation

Both

- Consultation paper to include intro, 8 x theme one-pagers, conclusion.
- Out of scope is the ambition of the CCS, detailed work that the community has already been consulted on and input / suggestions on specific and detailed short term actions (this is government responsibility / budget constrained).

Targeted consultation

- Seek more specific feedback on relevant areas to the organisation e.g., would ask ACTCOSS about how to support vulnerable cohorts improve their resilience.
- Could dive deeper to confirm if we have missed any gaps or opportunities or whether the outcomes sufficiently support a shared understanding on how the ACT is collectively tracking to address climate change and reach a shared long-term vision.

Public consultation

- Focused on key areas where they can influence the outcome. For example, more questions/focus on the adaptation areas over emissions reductions and the types of support they may need in the short term.